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ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION
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FROM : Amembassy AMMAN

DATE:

SUBJECT : Jordan and the Mirage 3

REF :

The August 12 issue of Al Jihad carried an article reportedly translated from Israel's Haaretz daily to the effect that the French Government is now considering a Jordanian application for the purchase of Mirage 3 jet aircraft. The article continued that the application was made on the eve of ALIA's procurement of Caravelles, that it is not yet known whether France will respond to the application, and that it seems that Jordan has the funds to pay for the Mirages.

COMMENT: To the Embassy's best knowledge, this is the first Jordanian press reference to military jets for Jordan from any country. There have as yet been no follow-up articles or editorials on the subject although the Embassy Economic Officer had been approached twice by different Jordanian businessmen asking for information on these negotiations prior to the Haaretz article.

It is quite possible that the GOJ quickly passed the word that Al-Jihad and other papers should refrain from elaborating on this subject, although the fact that the negotiations are underway is no secret among knowledgeable Jordanians.

For the Ambassador

Gabriel J. Paolozzi

Gabriel J. Paolozzi
First Secretary of Embassy

Exempted from automatic decontrol
By G. J. Paolozzi
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